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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 265844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, SN, US

SUBJECT: US NAVAL USE OF SINGAPORE NAVAL FACILITIES

REFS: (A) LONDON 17297 DTG 231703Z OCT 75

(B) STATE 200775 DTG 222311Z AUG 75

(C) SINGAPORE 4647 DTG 250619Z OCT 75

(D) LONDON 07941 DTG 271744Z MAY 75

1. BRITISH PROPOSAL OUTLINED PARA 1 REF A IS ADEQUATE
TO MEET US REQUIREMENTS INSINGAPORE. HOWEVER, NPW ACCESS
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CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT OUTSTANDING REQUIREMENT.

PLEASE INFORM FCO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NOTING THAT WE ARE PLEASED WITH HMG'S FORTHCOMING RESPONSE. WE UNDERSTAND THE FACILITY ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL INCLUDE CONTINUED UK CONTROL OF OPERATION OF THE UK PARTS OF THE SENOKO OIL FUEL DEPOT, THE PIPELINES TO THE NAVAL BASIN AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT, AND ALLOCATION OF PIERS 6 AND 7 IN THE NAVAL BASIN; RETENTION BY THE UK OF THE PARTS OF THE SENOKO OIL FUEL DEPOT PRESENTLY ALLOCATED TO THE UK, THE PIPELINES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT, BERTHS 6 AND 7, INCLUDING THE FULL WIDTH OF THE JETTY, AND A STORAGE AREA ADJACENT TO THE BERTHS; AND ALLOCATION TO THE UK OF OFFICE SPACE.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM THE BRITISH THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN RN AND USN ON QUOTE FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS UNQUOTE (PARA 3 OF THOMSON PAPER QUOTED PARA 1 REF A). NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD PREFER TO POSTPONE ANY SERVICE-LEVEL AGREEMENT ON SUCH MATTERS UNTIL AFTER RPT AFTER CONCLUSION OF HMG-GOS AGREEMENT ON CONTINUED USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES SINCE TERMS OF ANY SUCH SERVICE-LEVEL AGREEMENT WOULD NECESSARILY DEPEND UPON SCOPE OF RIGHTS GRANTED HMG BY GOS. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, EXPECT HMG TO OUTLINE DETAILS OF PROPOSED USN USE OF FACILITIES TO GOS IN COURSE OF HMG-GOS NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER THAT SUCH USE COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN SUM, WE SEE A FOUR- STEP PROCEDURE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) EMBASSY WOULD INFORM HMG THAT ARRANGEMENTS SET OUT PARA 1 OF THOMSON PAPER PLUS RESOLUTION OF NPW ACCESS WOULD COMPLETELY MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABOVE INSTRUCTION.

(2) RN-USN SERVICE-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING TECHNICAL DETAILS OF USN ACCESS WOULD BE HELD.

(3) HMG WOULD PROCEED TO NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITH GOS ON USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES, WHICH AGREEMENT WOULD CONTAIN PROVISION PERMITTING USN ACCESS CONSISTENT WITH OUTCOME OF USN-RN DISCUSSIONS AT STEP (2).

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(4) USN AND RN WOULD PROCEED TO CONCLUDE SERVICE-LEVEL AGREEMENT.

E. AS APPROPRIATE EMBASSY MIGHT ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHAT QUOTE FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS UNQUOTE BRITISH HAVE IN MIND. IN ANY CASE WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE BRITISH DESIRES IN THIS REGARD.

4. WITH REGARD TO UK PROPOSAL CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NPW VISITS, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SEPARATING THE ISSUE FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT DELAY INDEFINITELY REACHING AGREEMENT ON CONTINUING NPW ACCESS AND THUS LEAD TO LOSS OF BERTHING PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO NPW. THIS RESULT SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. ACCESS FOR NPW AS WELL AS CONVENTIONALLY POWERED WARSHIPS TO SINGAPORE IS CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF SATISFACTORY AVAILABLE ALONGSIDE BERTHING IN THAT REGION OF THE WORLD, I.E., SUBIC BAY IS THE NEAREST ACCESSIBLE FACILITY TO SINGAPORE. THIS NEED IS REINFORCED BY THE INCREASING ROLE ANTICIPATED FOR NPW IN INDIAN OCEAN OPERATIONS AND THE DIFFICULTIES WE ARE EXPERIENCING IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. THEREFORE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RESOLVE THE SINGAPORE NPW ACCESS QUESTION SUCCESSFULLY AND AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME SO AS NOT TO INTERRUPT OR LOSE THE AVAILABILITY OF BERTHS IN THE NAVAL BASIN. WE, OF COURSE, ARE PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO ASSIST UK IN THIS REGARD.

5. GIVEN OUR DEEP INTEREST IN NUCLEAR ACCESS WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEPARATE THE SUBJECT OF NPW VISITS FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING ACCESS TO THE FUEL DEPOT AND ASSOCIATED BERTHS. AT THE SAME TIME WE RECOGNIZE THAT JOINING THE TWO ISSUES MAY UNDULY PROTRACT THE DISCUSSIONS OR IN THE EXTREME JEOPARDIZE THEIR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

6. IF IT APPEARS TO BE ADVISABLE TO SEPARATE THE TWO, THE EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE THE APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE AND AT THE SAME TIME CONVEY OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THE NPW ACCESS ISSUE, INQUIRE AS TO WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND WHAT THE REMAINING OBSTACLES ARE, EMPHASIZE TO THE

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BRITISH THAT WE CONSIDER NPW ACCESS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, AND INSURE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND WE WILL BE LOOKING TO THEM FOR CONTINUED HELP TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM SUCCESSFULLY. IF FORCED TO DISCONNECT THESE TWO SUBJECTS IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE PUT EQUAL EMPHASIS ON NPW ACCESS AND INJECT OURSELVES INTO THE PROBLEM MUCH AS WE HAVE IN THE FUEL FACILITIES ISSUE.

7. AGREE WITH SUGGESTION REF (C) THAT OFFICER IN CHARGE USN OFFICE SINGAPORE SHOULD BE PRESENT DURING USN-RN NEGOTIATIONS.
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